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REASONS humbly Offered for Passing the Bill now Tendred, for encouraging the Taking of Prizes from the *French King*, and for explaining an Act made in the First Year of Their now Majesties Reign, for *Prohibiting all Trade and Commerce with France*.

THE intent of the said Act was to impoverish the *French King*, and disable his Subjects; for which purpose, the granting of private Commissions and Letters of Mart, for taking the Enemies Ships, Men, and Merchandises, &c. (as is usual in War) was always deem'd a very necessary Expedient: but for want of due encouragement, all persons are discourag'd from acting under such private Commissions.

The Benefits that will arise from this, are,

I. Many Privateers will sit out upon this account and thereby the number of Seamen will be much increased, and ready and experienced to serve His Majesty's Occasions.

II. Many *French* Prisoners will be taken in the Prizes they shall bring in, which being exchange'd for our *English* Prisoners in *France*, will bring home many Seamen for His Majesty's Service; as may appear by the Example of one small Privateer of ten Guns, which in fifteen days time brought into *Guernsey* and *Durmonth* near an hundred Prisoners.

III. For want of this encouragement, many able and experienced Seamen, that are and may be taken, will be utterly lost, and condemn'd to the Gallies, for want of *French* Prisoners to exchange for them; which emboldens the Enemy, and will increase their number, to the impairing of the Courage of His Majesty's Subjects, who are under the dreadful apprehensions that there is no Redemption from Slavery and the Gallies, for want of Prisoners to exchange.

IV. These Privateers will so infest the Trade and Commerce of *France*, that one part of *France* will not be able to supply the others wants. As for Example: *Gascogne* and *Paris* will not be able to supply *Britanny*, *Normandy*, *Piccardy*, and their Conquests in *Flanders*, with Brandy, Wines, Vinegar, Salt, Pruans, and such-like Commodities, which they can have from no other part; and moreover, They will be able to obstruct the *French King's* Salt-Trade, by which he furnishes his Gabels, and by consequence lessen his Revenues.

V. Privateers often serve for Convoys, being always at Command, and will secure the Trade of our own *Ce's*, which for want of them are infested by our Enemies' Men of War and Privateers.

VI. The Goods taken by Prize will turn to great Advantage to His Majesty in the Tenth and Customs thereof, and will be a present fund for the raising Forty or fifty thousand pounds.

It may be objected, *That in allowing the Privateers Demands, under such colour many private Contracts may be made to bring in French Goods under the notion of Prize.*

For Answer: I. If any Prize be brought in, she must be condemn'd, which will cost Ten per Cent. of her value, comprehending what will be embezled, and other Charges.

II. The King must have Ten per Cent. for his Tenth.

III. The Privateers men must have one Third, which is Thirty-three per Cent.

IV. For Victualling and Fitting-out the Privateer Ten per Cent. more at least may be added; so the whole Charge amounts to Sixty-three per Cent. And so far as nothing but the expectation of great Profit could make a man propose bringing in his Goods after this manner; Who, is it to be suppos'd, would adventure, when the Charge is so great as Sixty-three per Cent. besides the hazard of the Seas, Customs, and other Duties?

V. The smallest Privateer must have Twenty men, or more; and altho the Captain and one or two more may be in a Confederacy with you, yet nevertheless you cannot expect to silence the Tongues of the others, who upon the least quarrel will discover the Design, to the loss of all, besides the being liable to the Penalty of the Act.

VI. Some Road or River must be appointed where the Ship is to be taken and brought in by consent; and may not another Privateer come there and take em, and so deprive you of all?

And as a further discouragement to such Importation, it may be so provided, That if there be proved any connivance in bringing in any Goods under the notion of Prize, that then the Privateers Ship and the Prize shall be both forfeited; one part to the Informer, and the other to the King, besides all the other Penalties in the Act of Prohibition.

Therefore it is hoped the Bill will pass, which is only for encouraging the taking of French Prizes by Their Majesties Ships of War and Privateers, whose Services may be so conducting to the advantage of Their Majesties, Preservation of their Subjects, and the annoying and disposing of their Enemies; which are so high Considerations and Inducements, as not to be departed from for fear of an imaginary inconvenience of driving a covert Trade with France; which, for the Reasons aforesaid, (as matters now stand) cannot ensue without great Expence and Hazard, and may be additionally provided against, so as to strengthen it beyond all question.